

12/3/92

Trade Winds

PIANO SA

announce painful cutbacks in its first year, one week before Christ-

ease the job-loss pain. Along with plant closings, GM Thursday also announced a reorganization of its Cadil-

parts plants in Trenton, N.J.; Livonia, Mich.; and Sioux City, Iowa, affecting a total of more than 6,000 employees.

Workers Post Gains in Productivity

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TON — The productivity of nonfarm workers is the fastest rate in 20 years. Improvement is coming from fewer jobs and pal-

ty of nonfarm work- and as their output per —grew at a healthy ly adjusted annual the July-September Labor Department

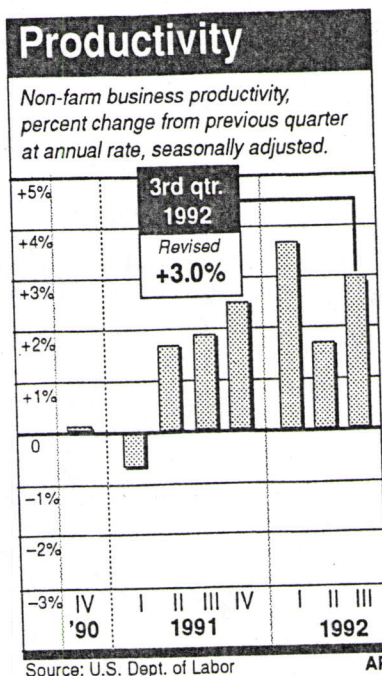
g very good is hap- productivity," said Bruce Steinberg of

ity gains have been 8% so far this year, a ment over the 0.5% of all of last year. If the omes in at 2.8%, it e best since a 3.1%

productivity increase of a 1.7% advance in quarter and a 3.7% ng the first three he year.

creases are coming at he employed, who are rder and longer to pro- with less, and for the d, who are finding jobs efficiency-minded com-

gains have slowed to a



crawl. And despite six consecutive quarters of economic growth, the nation's unemployment rate has only recently begun to improve. Unemployment stood at 7.4% in October, down from an eight-year high of 7.8% in June.

"Business is being very cautious in its hiring and until recently has been very aggressive in its firing," said economist Robert Dederick of Northern Trust Co. in Chicago.

Unlike in past recessions, the firings have hit middle managers this time as companies have slimmed down to compete in the ever more important export market.

Gold in Them Thar Oquirrh? Kennecott Expansion Gets OK

By Mike Gorrell
 THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE
 Kennecott received variances Thursday that will permit expansion of its gold-mining operation in the Oquirrh Mountains.

The Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining approved the company's request to exceed regulations governing the steepness of slopes in its mine pits and waste dumps.

Kennecott said the variances were needed to make it economically feasible to expand its Barneys Canyon gold mine, which is north of its more-famous Bingham Canyon copper mine.

"It's an extremely positive ruling," said Kennecott spokesman Greg Boyce. "Barneys Canyon always had a limited life of seven to eight years. This [approval] will add a year or two to its life, continue the jobs there and provide some economic benefits to the company as well as taxes to the state and Salt Lake County."

Mine manager David Hodson told the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining on Wednesday that an expanded operation could increase employment from 140 to 180, boost the company's tax and royalty payments by \$3 million annually and spur another \$10 million in capital investments.

Mr. Hodson said new gold deposits have been located between two open pits currently in use.

For those deposits to be mined, the company needed a variance of an environmental regulation that will allow walls of the pit to be steeper than the law allows. It also required an allowance to deposit waste rock and soil in piles with steep slopes that exceeded legal limits, and a waiver of a rule that required 70% of the pile to be revegetated.

The modifications would result in 20 fewer acres being disturbed, Mr. Hodson said, and the waste pile would be replanted enough to return the area to a stable ecological condition adequate for its pre-mining use as wildlife habitat.

Sierra Club member Scott Endicott challenged Kennecott's request, contending the variances would cause "irreparable environmental damage" and indicate to the mining industry that it can mine anywhere regardless of the consequences and receive the state's endorsement.

"I'm not surprised about the decision," Mr. Endicott said Thursday. "Kennecott is a big company with lots of lawyers arguing they're going to lose money if the variances weren't granted. I'm afraid that economics drives that [Oil, Gas and Mining] division and board quite a bit."

He said the Sierra Club wants complete reclamation of mine sites.

ees Billing Utah Firms for Improper Shipping Discounts Given by P.I.E.

Robert Bryson
 SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

ah businesses are find- is no such thing as a even cheap — ride.

city trustees for Flori- Pacific Intermountain dropping hundreds of ng bills each day in the ah companies.

s are for money the aim is owed on old ac- five years or more in s. P.I.E. gave shippers a on shipments and the ow want the difference.

paid a discounted rate rly filed as a tariff with state Commerce Com- you may still be legally pay the nondiscounted plained Rick Culpepper- Lake Area Business Alli-

One Utah shipper acknowledges receiving a bill.

"The trustee demanded we pay \$6,000 for shipments we made several years ago, said Ross Alger, president and chief executive officer of Design Vinyl, Salt Lake City.

P.I.E.'s rate wasn't rock bottom, he said, but it was competitive. The firm manufactures vinyl, loose-leaf binders and other products.

"We went back to the trustee and got the bill down to \$2,200. They intimidated the daylight out of us and we reluctantly paid that," Mr. Alger said.

The bills Utah businesses have received have ranged from several hundred to many thousands, said Mr. Culpepper, who has been attempting to coordinate businesses involved with P.I.E.

Salt Lake City-based food distributor Nicholas & Co. got a bill for \$1,200, said Elyce Mouskondis, vice president and co-owner. Negotiations cut that to \$400, which she paid. But the trustees have refused that amount, asking for \$600, Ms. Mouskondis said.

"For \$600 I can get a lawyer in Florida to help stall this," she said. She refuses to pay the \$200 difference.

"It is unfair to ask for payment of a ride taken 10 years ago," said Reed Reeve, executive vice president, Utah Motor Transport Association, Salt Lake City. "These

businesses have had nothing to do with P.I.E. other than make a shipment," he said.

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